

the diamond

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Dordt students respond to Cambodian emergency

Two weeks before November 28, after reading about Cambodia in the papers and magazines, Jim Peters, a Dordt junior, started planning a hunger drive that included the canvassing of Sioux Center. He said, "I was sick of the inactivity on campus." The pre-Thanksgiving research included contacting the CRWRC for information, and they recommended the Church World Service. I talked to them in Indiana, and they sent me literature with daily up-to-date facts. They have representatives there (Kampuchia). I also talked with UNICEF in New York City for more information." Jim said, "The first thing was to raise money. I talked to Reverend Hulst, first, who was for the idea. The chapel was the means to reach a large number of people. Dr. De Jong switched the chapel schedule for what he thought was a useful project. Then I started the unofficial planning, a chapel speech that would

move the kids, and get them to respond by volunteering to canvass Sioux Center Monday, December 3."

Jim worked on the project over the Thanksgiving break. His time was spent with publicity, formulating ideas, and driving around Sioux Center counting houses. Twenty-two group leaders were selected to take the volunteers, divide them into smaller sections, and direct them in the 22 areas into which Sioux Center was divided.

KDCR provided public service announcements. Pat Kruis interviewed Jim, and the interview was aired periodically to make the community aware.

Posters and pastors were other means of spreading the word. Some pastors gave representatives time during church services on Sunday, December 2. Others allowed print space in the church bulletin.

The postmaster sent out 355 flyers to the rural community who could

not be reached door-to-door. They can send the money in care of Dordt College. The Business Office will be collecting the money so that one check can be written.

"We have official Dordt sanction. The Dean of Students Office and the administration back us. Also, we are sponsored by the Student Forum as a campus project," Jim stated, adding that he was working in the Media Center in cooperation with Mrs. Dekkenga from the Dean of Students Office. He also cited his friends as instrumental in sharing the work.

Jim felt the response from the kids was exciting and positive. He said that 270 people initially did sign up to offer their time on Monday, December 3, to canvass Sioux Center. He hopes the community responds generously.

One tangent to the operation is the possibility for improved student-community relations which Jim feels

I see it (the project) as setting a precedent."

"A question that is posed to us is 'Do you people realize that there are political implications?'" He commented, "This is something that people hide behind. They say that it is the communists' fault, but I don't look at it as a political problem and let people die. Another way to justify noninvolvement is to say that in another six months they will die off anyway. I hope for their well-being in the future. Our job is to see their need now."

Jim is an education major with an interest in social sciences. He wants to teach and possibly get involved with an organization like CRWRC, or some other Christian action program, "Something that takes enthusiasm and promotes action," he said.

Although they are still counting the money, the present figure is \$4800. Approximately 250 students turned out to help canvass. Jim commented that the students wanted to do more and that they enjoyed meeting other kids and getting out into the community.

Christmas party features Simeon



The studio band, Simeon, practices for a concert

Make plans now to attend the all school Christmas party on Friday December 14. The evening begins with a special Christmas dinner in the Commons, then progresses to the Simeon Concert in the Chapel at 8:00 and finishes with a candlelight reception and Christmas hymn sing in the Commons at 10:00. Simeon is a wellknown, contemporary Christian studio band from Toronto, Ontario. They base their

songs on the message of hope and Christian principles. Tickets for the concert are \$2 in advance and \$2.50 at the door.

The candlelight reception in the Commons features an interlude entitled "The Spirit of Wonder" by Heidi Zinkand and Grace Van Someran. After the Christmas hymn sing there will be free punch and cookies.

Everyone is encouraged to attend either one or all three events.

have been dormant over the last 3 years. He said, "I hope for better relations and rapport with the community. I hope this will increase student involvement in the future."

Facts on Cambodia

200,000 people are dying monthly in Kampuchia (Cambodia).

There will be no rice crop this year. A dry season is coming. The people were so hungry that they ate the seedling before it matured. This is comparable to eating the corn stalk before it produces the ear of corn.

The six months are critical to see if this will be another major holocaust worse than the one of W.W.II. It depends on relief efforts to cover for the bad rice crop. Once the crop is healthy they are self-sufficient. Before 1970 Cambodia was politically neutral with a

peaceful tradition. During the Viet Nam War, Cambodia set up bases along the border and the U.S. attacked, causing a communist reaction. As a result, a coup brought down Prince Sihanouk. This led to a communist regime.

The majority who are starving are women, children, and old people, not soldiers.

90% of the population is suffering from malaria and/or starvation. There is no medicine in the country. There are 55 doctors in the whole country. Because of oppression, the middle-class have fled the country.

Inside

Magic Wheels has a good business	p. 5
A surprising view on the Iran situation	p. 6
"Sinterklaas Dag"	p. 6
Attend the last Hockey game ... details on	p. 7
Lots of letters to the editor	p. 2-3
Also, the editor and adviser reply	p. 2
"Purpaleanie: For love but for lust too..." a review on the production	p. 4

Guest editorial

"I'm gettin' ready for a party tonight. I'm gettin' ready to cruise. Get ready for the time of your life.... There's nothing like a party to kick things into gear." These are a few lines from a recent popular song, appropriately enough called, "Party." If you asked any number of people between the ages of fourteen and twenty-five how they felt about parties, most of them would give you an answer which is very similar to the views expressed in the lyrics of the song.

Do they really feel that way though? Partying is a way of life for a good number of people. They base their whole life style around parties. Yet, most of the people who are "partyers" aren't enjoying themselves as much as they would have you believe. They are the victims of peer pressure. They fear not being accepted if they don't go to parties, or they go to parties to get away from everyday reality. A brief look at a typical party will show this.

As you enter the room you have to stop to let your eyes get accustomed to the dim atmosphere. There's just enough light to allow you to walk around without running into everything, but a lot of things and people stay hidden in the darkness. To the right, as you walk in, there's a small table with all kinds of sandwiches, crackers, and punch. The food is arranged so neatly you almost hate to take any and ruin the design.

Off to the left is a fireplace with a few logs burning in it. The wood fills the air with a pine scent. All around the sides are small groups of people. Like clusters of berries on a bush, the people stand in their cliques. The more popular people seem to stand in the light somehow, while the serfs of the groups stay unnoticed. An air of falseness floats around the room.

Falseness has a certain cold feeling that creeps into you like dampness does on a wintry morning. A few people wander back and forth to ask how you are doing, but somehow they don't seem sincere. Everyone follows the same routine. A few people are sincere, but most people worry more about their image in others' eyes than about how you are doing. If you belong to a less popular group, the more prominent people won't be seen talking to you. Somehow it's not so bad though, because the music is usually playing so loud you can't hear anyone anyway. When there is a break in the music, the room becomes like the calm before the storm. A hush falls over the room.

Everyone at the party is afraid to come out of his protective front. They're afraid people won't like them for what they are. Everyone would have a much better time if they would just be themselves. No one makes that first move though. It's as if their real life died inside them. When it comes down to it, there isn't a whole lot of life to the life of the party.

by Jim Van Drunen

Letters to the editor...

The Diamond welcomes signed letters to the editor. Preferred length: not over 300 words.

Dear SCREWTAPE,

It is enough!! The constant grumbling about the organ has lost its punch. It is no longer a stimulating issue but a sickening one. We have completely lost sight of any motivation; now it is nothing more than self-righteous indignation that feeds the fire. Why else would you hide behind the shield of a Christian writer like C.S. Lewis to cover your potshots at the administration? It's obvious that your perhaps once noble motives have become nothing more than a grudge. When you set out to create enmity on campus, you can no longer claim Christian love as your main concern. And NO cause, no matter how "holy", can excuse something low like the cymbelster vandalism incident. If you claim Christian love as your motive, your actions and reasoning certainly don't follow suit.

If you bothered to go to the dedication, you would have heard the speech by Mrs. Dahm in which she gave God all the glory for her opportunity to support Dordt College. What authority gave you the right to judge, question or condemn her motives? How dare you! I certainly hope she doesn't take such attacks seriously, but I'm sure she is deeply hurt by your

Rights of refusal and of editing are retained by the editor.

rash misinterpretation of her actions.

Granted, there are a few people who overemphasize the organ's importance, but does it follow that we should become like the Amish and get rid of all potential stumbling blocks because of the few who are led astray? We would be living bare lives.

I suggest you stop avoiding the musicians long enough to get to know the organ students and hear how they feel, since they are the ones for whom the organ was donated. Their attitude is one of respect and admiration for the instrument, but it is hardly worship. That's a pretty strong accusation.

May I suggest that you and your cohorts do some homework, SCREWTAPE? Come up with a worthwhile cause or a solid basis for all your complaining and conspiracy, instead of all the petty jealousies and gripes we're sick and tired of hearing.

PURGATORY

Editor's note

Although the Diamond doesn't know the identities of the previous SCREWTAPE writers, we do know they were written by different people, not just one person as the letter above suggests.

Dear Editor,

We came to Dordt thinking that we would grow in a Christian atmosphere. We were disappointed to find that many of the students here do not respect each other's private lives. Gossip is constantly being spread around the campus. What is worse is that some people believe everything they hear, without sufficient evidence.

We don't feel that this kind of conduct is proper of Christian students since it hurts so many

innocent people. Wouldn't Dordt be a happier place if everyone could see the good in people and overlook the bad?

A disappointed group of Dordt students

The writers of this letter wish to remain anonymous, but it expresses an idea that I think needs to be said, so I have signed it instead

John Pater

Readers:

Your interest in the student body of Dordt College is expressed in and through letters to the Diamond is commendable. Such interest is encouraged and encouraging. We ask you to continue speaking your mind.

Freedom of speech is a precious right, true; but there is a catch. Speaking freely isn't intrinsically free speech, for God's laws are immutable. Words were not excluded when He said, "What ye sow ye shall reap." This is true of newspapers as well as of people.

The Diamond began publication this year without the benefit of written history or records. Any and all files and correspondence and notes, incriminating or otherwise, were cleared from the

Diamond office files.

Thus no policy on reader letters made it inviting for the Diamond to publish an anonymous letter which seemingly was written in a spirit of charity. However, as usually happens, the tenor of the letters quickly changed.

The letter printed here today reflects the concern of many readers about the types of criticism that have been printed but which may not necessarily serve a constructive purpose.

Today's letter is published in the interest of equal time and fair comment. It is also the last anonymous letter the Diamond will accept. Only letters meeting the criteria set above will be published.

Lillian V. Grissen, Adviser

the diamond

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The Diamond is published by the students at Dordt College. These students are a part of a wider Christian community which looks to Jesus as the Truth. We are striving to develop journalism which proclaims the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Individual opinions may vary, but we hope that the communication of these ideas will stimulate growth in the Christian community.

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LAYOUT: Caryl DeVries, Tim Breedveld

PHOTOGRAPHY: Corwin Slagter-Editor, Louis Kwantes, Lyle Breems, George Horlings.

ADVISER: Mrs. Lillian Grissen.

...and more letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is written in response to Heidi Zinkand's letter in the November 15 issue of the Diamond concerning the National Guard riot simulation. In her letter, Heidi stated: "By this riot control practice, the National Guard is perpetuating a bias against the anti-nuclear position." It is this misunderstanding on Heidi's part that I would like to address.

The National Guard is often called in to disperse riots and strikes and to help out in times of disaster.

Despite Heidi's reservations, which I can appreciate, this is the way it is. As in any other activity, for the Guard to be effective in riot dispersal they must practice.

On November 3 the local National Guard unit staged a simulated riot in which most of the participants were Dordt students. In a real "riot" the "rioters" have a specific cause for which they are demonstrating. So in order to make this "riot" simulation successful, the "rioters" had to have a cause which they could identify with. In this case the National

Guard which made this all up, selected the anti-nuclear cause. One reason they might have done this is that it is quite popular right now to be anti-nuclear.

My point is this: the National Guard could have chosen any cause for the demonstrators. Any movement or cause would have been appropriate for their purposes. For this reason I feel that the National Guard is not perpetuating a bias against the anti-nuclear position.

Heidi goes on to say that by publishing the article "Nuclear Rioters in Sioux Center?" that the Diamond is really (Heidi's big word here--defacto) saying that the Guard's bias against the anti-nuclear position is okay. Is Heidi naive enough to believe that just because something appears in the Diamond that it is, to quote her, "sanctified"? I feel the Guard displayed no bias in staging the riot simulation. Therefore I feel that there are no major underlying issues for Heidi or the Diamond to concern themselves with.

Sincerely, Marv Kleinjan

Dear Editor,

We have noticed a considerable decrease in the amount of smoking done in the coffee shop and want to express our appreciation to those who smoke outside.

We would also like to thank the band for playing at the basketball games. They add spirit and enthusiasm to the crowd. But could they sit someplace else? They use some of the best seats in the gym for only a half hour

and then leave them vacant during game time. Maybe some fans would like some of those valuable cheering section seats for the game. Perhaps they could use the wing seats or balcony instead.

It's also encouraging to see the fans supporting the cheerleaders and team.

Thanks for listening,
Vonda, Deb, Val, Becky, and Tammi



The parking lot where most fines are distributed

photo by Louis Kwantes

Fines support Sunday treats

by Pat Kruis

It takes a little backbone to keep track of the 600-700 cars that rove Dordt's campus. Len Van Noord, Assistant Dean of students, said, "Hundreds of dollars have already been collected this year from violators of Dordt's automobile policy."

Two work-study girls administer most of the fines. Car owners can be fined \$5 for a parking violation, \$10 for an unregistered vehicle, and \$15 for a moving violation.

The faculty parking is the only reserved lot on campus. Parking parallel to the curb and in other designated areas is prohibited. "The triangle in front of the Commons seems to attract the most parking violations," commented Van Noord.

Faculty and college staff members as well as students must register any vehicle regularly taken to campus. This aids in identifying the owner of a car that must be moved for snow removal, or in the case of an emergency. A small window sticker signifies registration.

To protect pedestrians, the campus speed limit is 15 miles per hour. The campus police control traffic. Reckless drivers may be prosecuted in a civil court or fined \$15.

Many cars on a small campus cause congestion. Large trucks bring food to the Commons, pick up and deliver laundry, and pick up the garbage. "It's important," Van Noord said, "that this traffic

be organized so that roadways are clear for emergencies."

Plenty of parking is available for on-campus students as well as for commuters. If by mistake a visitor receives a parking ticket, the back of the ticket contains a note of explanation welcoming him to campus and telling him to disregard the ticket.

The wreckage of a station wagon that has been parked on campus for some time raises some questions. Registered and legally parked, the car cannot technically be ticketed. "But because it is an eyesore, we will ask the owner to move it as soon as possible," said Van Noord.

The permit stickers cost students \$1 each. This fee goes toward the general upkeep of the parking facilities. The fines, however, go into the Student Activities Fund.

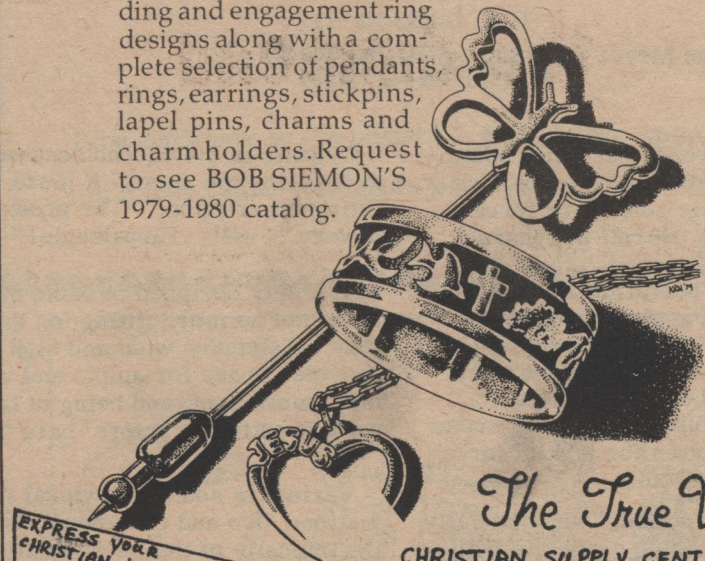
All fines on campus support student activities. Reckless drivers and illegal parkers finance the Sunday night cookies and punch in the SUB.

"We don't want fines to go into our operating budget," explained Van Noord. "That might look like we're giving fines to meet our budget. This way we take a negative student response and turn it towards a positive end."

Next Sunday as you grab cookies and punch in the SUB, say a toast for an anonymous double parker.

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We are pleased to announce that we are now carrying quality Christian jewelry by BOB SIEMON. Each piece of jewelry is hand crafted and hand polished by expert craftsmen to assure that you are receiving the finest quality sterling silver and 14K gold jewelry available. BOB SIEMON CHRISTIAN JEWELRY features original Christian wedding and engagement ring designs along with a complete selection of pendants, rings, earrings, stickpins, lapel pins, charms and charm holders. Request to see BOB SIEMON'S 1979-1980 catalog.



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Purpaleanie: For love, but for lust too...

by Mark Poehner



Actors rehearse for Purpaleanie

photo by Lyle Breems

"Purpaleanie" opens and closes with an audience wondering what the word means. But this puzzle-ment is characteristic of the play, because no amount of analysis will be able to define the experience of Sietze Buning's maturation in Sioux County: they are organic, and Verne Meyer's presentation celebrates them as such.

Paradox becomes flesh and plays among us from the outset of "Purpaleanie." Sietze Buning, played by Stan Sturing, walks on stage with the sophistication of a professor who has outgrown his heritage. Purporting not to censor the style of life of his Dutch patri-archs, but to celebrate, he flashed back to his first eighteen years of life. The play then moves

back and forth between Sietze's gentle two dimensional re-enact-ment of Dutch immigrant life style. Coupled with this oscillation is the movement from celebration to censorship and from hilarity to sobriety.

The eighteen summarized years which it took for Sietze to compre-hend what "Purpaleanie" means present almost a full cycle of the puritanical Dutch immigrants' life style. All the way from a naive child amazed with potato bugs and the yellowness of a canary, through catechism lessons and disagreeing with the symbolic tradition of his patriarchs, to the acceptance of his sexuality and eventually of his parents' death, Sietze is portrayed daringly in

every experience but a Dutch boy's "making out" and a Dutch boy's dance.

But "Purpaleanie" reaches beyond the regional life of the puritan im-migrants from the Netherlands to the the Midwest plains. Having between ten to twenty-five roles for each of the thirteen cast members to play, Meyer accomplishes a presentation touching the life of any human who has wrestled with maturing in a tradition-oriented environment. Although the script relies heavily on Biblical and farm terminology and imagery, it is played sensitively, humorously, and often very actively.

At times the play drags in the transition from Sietze's monologue to the cast's tragedies and comedies. Stan Sturing's little laugh was not sufficient support for these trans-itions when the audience didn't get a punch line, and good lines were thrown out the barn door.

On top of Sturing's performance of of Buning, the two other leading roles were well cast, with John Van Dyk as the father and Joan Vander Beek as the mother. Van Dyk's rendering of Dad was charming, at times jocose, yet able to draw out the soberest of sentiment. From his appearance on stage in his bare feet during Sietze's first flashback to the "Last Visit in Three Voices", Dad's earthy humor and stern loyal-ty to tradition came dangerously close to stealing the show.

The rest of the cast, varying from Ronald Nelson's childish acrobatics to Teresa Brouwer's almost seductive innocent little girl, faithfully pul-sated interest and energy into the production. Even the harmony of the chorus is spine tingling, although an occasional disharmony caused unwanted laughter in the audience.



Director Verne Meyer coaching behind the scenes



Stan Sturing, Grace Kramer, John Van Dyk, and Joan Vander Beek

One might wonder at times wheth-er another cast member may have played a certain role more force-fully, although overall the charac-ters were well played.

Ray Louter performs an excellent caricature of a gluttonous pietist in "Calvinist Sunday Dinner," and this scene remains in the memory; but in "First Lesson in Rhetoric," a more powerfully contrasting scene is easily forgotten for lack of force from the same actor.

"Excommunication," an especially life style censoring scene, is both strengthened by Dan Medema's alcoholic role and slurred by the preacher's (Doug Huisken) weak character while delayed by Jo Anne Voogd's cutting monologue. These actors did well in other roles, although few of the cast stood out due to the nature of the play.

Organic is the second best word to describe the show. A more fitting description: "The production is very...well, Purpaleanie!"

The set, designed by Mike Stair, could not be more fitting for this play. Extending wide and high it provides space for ample and var-iated movement; and being of barn wood it suits the actors' bare feet.

Variety in sound and visual pro-jections also add enormously to the intensity of the presentation. At the end the presence of the set, the lighting, and the sound of the chorus fill the audience's senses, leaving only one desire unfulfilled--to thank the actors at curtain call.

Perhaps this desire is best left that way; maybe it has to do with the meaning of "Purpaleanie!"

Magic wheels rolling success

It may be coincidence in Providence, but Sioux Center has one of the only eight "magically decorated" roller skating floors in the world!

More than twice the business expected at the new roller rink is the welcome given by Sioux Center to Ted and Sharon De Vries. From Luverne, MN., this middle-aged couple opened the rink in September of this year.

Their only association with roller-skating before last year was leading a young people's group in a couple of skating parties for the American Reformed Church of Luverne. Driving down to Sioux City for a doctor's appointment a year ago, Sharon said that she'd like to live in this "nice quiet town" of Sioux Center. Ted answered, "Yeah, why don't we build a roller skating rink."

It seemed like a farfetched idea at first, but that same day they looked into it. On the way back to Luverne they stopped at Orange City where there was once a rink, but finding out it was closed down, they drove back to Sioux Center and visited the realtors that same afternoon.

The commercial lot not far out of the town's southern end seemed appropriate, giving ample room for parking.

The harsh winter impeded immediate construction, but they proceeded in the spring. The floor was poured July 3.

"We were green at this," states Ted. "We didn't know what to expect, nor even how to run a place with this many people." All they knew was that there was a demand for roller-skating.

Crowds range from 175 to 250 people on college nights (Thursdays) and adult nights (Wednesdays), up to 325 people on weekends.

"The first night we had about 65 people and everything went smoothly," said Ted. "But the next night was so crowded that it got hot and humid, and water was running down the walls onto the floor. "That goes to show how green we were," he laughed. "So we had to install new air conditioners and ventilators."

Now with almost every family night (Mondays and Tuesdays) booked through the end of March next year, the De Vrieses have had to quit their old jobs and devote their working time to Magic Wheels. Ted worked at Iowa Beef Packers for the last seventeen years, and Sharon drove a school bus.

"As soon as we can sell our house in Luverne, we're moving to Sioux Center," said Sharon.

As for a "Christian perspective" or vision for their new business, the De Vrieses confess they haven't thought much about it.

"We have certain standards as far as not playing hard rock music or songs with sex in them, and we don't allow swearing," assured Ted.

They do, however, claim their business as a potential for linking the college crowd to the community. They also express hope in getting students together from the numerous colleges in the area.

Some students already have come from Northwestern, Westmar, Briar Cliff, and Sheldon Technical schools.

Grand Opening for Magic Wheels is from December 10 to 15. Various prizes will be given.



Young people rolling their time away at Magic Wheels

photo by Louis Kwantes

Students direct and act

Lois Zandstra is putting on the first student directed play of the year entitled "Please, No Flowers." It will be performed on December 14 and 15 at the New World Theatre. It is open to Dordt people only.

"Please, No Flowers" is a story about the ghosts of two ladies who died -- one by committing suicide and one by giving up on life. At first they are happy with the decision they made but later, as people visit them, they wonder if they did the right thing.

by Carol Bentz and Wendy Dykstra

Zandstra, a senior, is from Highland, Indiana. She is majoring in English and her plans for the future are to teach English and direct plays on the high school level.

Zandstra took Applied Theatre Directing classes last semester and the requirement was to direct one play. From this experience she is learning how to direct plays.

Zandstra said no difficulties have occurred in the production and that it has been an enjoyable experience.

Have you ever wondered about the sounds that erupt from New World Theater--the laughing, the yelling, the jumping and bumping about? You won't have to wonder much longer, because on the evening of Monday, December 10, it will all come out up front, on stage.

At 8 o'clock that evening in TePaske Theater the Fundamentals of Acting Class, taught by Mike Stair, will present the Mike Stair Show.

The theme of the performance is Aging and the show will consist of five to ten short acts pertaining to the theme.

A few examples of what the actors will be portraying are what it's like having an aged parent living with you when you are married and have a family of your own; how to say good-bye to someone who is dying; moving an older person from home into a nursing home; the loneliness of an aged person who has lost their spouse and the family rarely visits them; and other aspects of aging.

All young people should attend the performance if they want to be made more aware of the older people and their feelings. The show is an eye-opener to the way in which we have been treating them.

Writers, Typists, Layout persons are needed for the diamond

(You don't have to "be perfect:" give of your time;
we'll help refine your skills while you improve us)



Iran crisis develops from past actions

On November 11, the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, was taken over by a number of Iranian students, and 60 U.S. citizens were taken hostage. Since that time, some of the hostages have been released. The remaining hostages are being held on condition that the Shah be returned to Iran to be tried for his crimes. The Ayatollah Khomeini, as well as most Iranians, fully support the taking of American hostages.

Why are the Iranians acting in this way? The religious leaders and their supporters see U.S. - Western technology, modernization, and corruption as a threat to their Persian identity and Islamic beliefs. To the Iranians, this Westernism came with the Shah and his U.S. support.

From the early 19th century, Persia, now called Iran, was dominated by either imperialist Britain or imperialist Russia, with Britain finally in control. In the early 1950's, Britain was finally ousted, only to have the U.S. replace them. This dismayed many Iranians, who were hoping to be free of imperialism.

However, a very small, but powerful, group in Iran welcomed U.S. presence in Iran. This group was led by Shah Pahlavi, who, like his father, declared himself to be the dictatorial leader of Iran.

The Shah, with U.S. backing, brought in U.S. - Western technology and modernization. He suppressed any movements by the people to keep their Shia Muslim way of life. Shah Pahlavi organized a secret police, called SAVAK, at whose

hands many people were tortured and killed.

In 1963 the religious leader of the people, the Ayatollah Khomeini, was arrested and sent into exile to Paris, France. It was not until January, 1979 that the people of Iran were finally freed of the Shah and the oppression of modern Western technology that he represented.

After the Shah was ousted, the Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Iran to continue the Shia Muslim leadership of Iran, the tradition of centuries.

Since his return, the Ayatollah has had Islamic justice enforced, punishing all those who were a part of the Shah's regime. The Shah is considered the worst of these "criminals," and the Ayatollah and his followers want him punished as well. The U.S.'s allowance of the Shah to enter the U.S. is seen by many Iranians as U.S. support for the Shah, and defense of the Shah's legitimacy as leader of Iran.

From the perspective of the Ayatollah and his supporters, the holding of American hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran is not wrong or unjust. As far as many Iranians and their religious leader are concerned, Islamic

justice is the rule, and the Shah must be brought back to be punished for his wrong-doings to the Iranian people. The seeming U.S. support for the Shah is wrong also, and is not condoned by Iranians. Hence, the holding of American hostages.

How do we as Christians respond to this situation? First of all, we should recognize that the majority of the people in Iran are Islamic in belief, and have an ancient Persian identity. The actions by the Shah, with U.S. support, to replace the people's identity and Islamic beliefs with Western technology and modernization are wrong.

Secondly, as Christians we should take note of the attempts by Ayatollah Khomeini to integrate his Islamic beliefs into every area of life, including politics and the peoples' lifestyle. (How much of an attempt are we making to integrate the Word of God into every area of our life?)

Thirdly, we do not have to condone blackmail, such as the hostage taking incident. But, at the same time, we should acknowledge that the Iranian people are attempting to practice the kind of justice that is in line with their Islamic belief. Perhaps they are right?

Books for Christmas from the Dordt College Press

For giving or just for your own reading.

Sign of a Promise and Other Stories

by James C. Schaap

This book of stories about Dutch immigrants in the Midwest will be fascinating to anyone with Dutch roots. Give your folks an autographed copy for Christmas!

The Armor of Light

edited by Merle Meeter

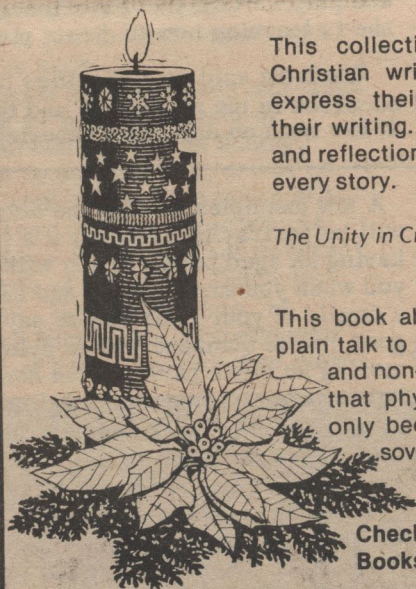
This collection of short stories by Christian writers shows how authors express their Christian faith through their writing. Questions for discussion and reflection are included at the end of every story.

The Unity in Creation

by Russell Maatman, Ph.D.

This book about science is written in plain talk to be useful to both scientist and non-scientist alike. Its thesis is that physical science is possible only because men know of God's sovereignty, although many try to suppress the knowledge.

Check them out at the Dordt Bookstore!



Sinterklaas...who?

by Andriette Pleron

"Sinterklaas Dag" has come and gone for the Netherlands as well as for Dordt College. Every December fifth Sinterklaas makes his annual visit to the Netherlands. Sinterklaas also chose to visit Dordt last night, and was accompanied by three "zwarte pieten", Piet, Griet and Miet.

St. Nicolas, a legendary figure from Spain, celebrates his birthday on December fifth. Being the kind-hearted saint that he is, instead of receiving gifts he distributes them to the children. Adults also receive gifts from one another on this day, but generally they are frivolous ones. Usually each gift is accompanied by a poem which points out in a humorous and good-natured way some personal characteristic or fault of the receiver.

St. Nicolas arrives from Spain on his big steam-ship with thousands of Moorish slaves called "zwarte pieten." Their job is to reprimand bad children with a "roe" (bundle of twigs) and they carry a sack to deport them back to Spain. Also, the "zwarte pieten" distribute gifts and candy and generally aid St. Nicolaas.

A faithful companion of Sinterklaas is his white horse. On the eve of December fifth, St. Nick and his helpers go along the rooftops to fill the children's shoes and boots which have been set by the fireplace (or door).



On December fifth the gifts are opened. The children sing traditional songs to lure Sinterklaas and his "zwarte pieten" into the houses. After the gifts are opened it is customary to sing "Dank u Sinterklaasje" (Thank-you St. Nick).

A very positive feature of celebrating Sinterklaas Day, according to the Dutch, is that it separates Christmas from gift-giving.

Christmas is celebrated solely as a remembrance of the Savior's birth. A result of this is that the meaning of Christmas remains clear.

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Defenders lose to Wartburg

by Tim Vos

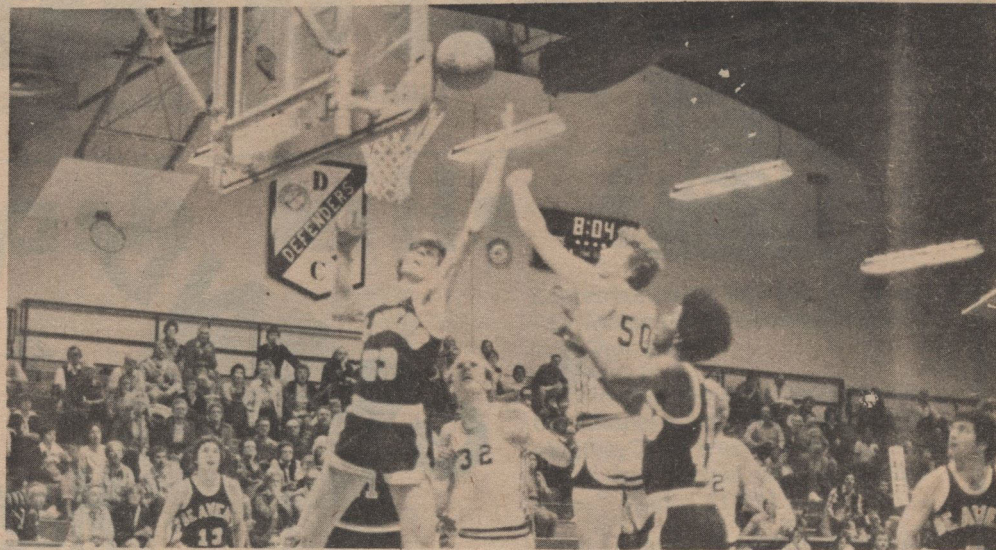
The Dordt Defenders brought their record to 1-3 with a 67-61 loss to Wartburg Friday night. Wartburg, who is one of the winningest small colleges in Iowa, had to overcome a 14 point performance by Dayton Vogel and repeated rallies, when it looked as though the Knights might pull away.

The Knights opened a ten point lead early in the first half only to see Dordt reel twelve unanswered rallies behind guard Denny Rowenhorst. Wartburg managed a 31-28 lead at the half and opened the lead to as many as twelve in the second half, until yet another Defender rally brought the score to within two buckets. But that was all the closer Dordt came, as they fell six points short at the

buzzer.

Vogel got help in the scoring from Rowenhorst with ten, eight from Dean Visser, and six points each from Kevin Wolterstorff, Vern Droge, and Steve Rozeboom. Matt Ellis led Wartburg with 26. A bright spot was the depth Coach Vander Berg was able to utilize. Ten players were worked into the line-up, including sizable contributions by three sophomores, Rozeboom, Stanton Visser, and Wes Fopma.

Eighteen turnovers may have been the Defender's undoing; if they can keep that to a minimum, Dordt can be fairly optimistic on the up-coming road trip. Dordt plays seven away games before the team returns home for a January 19 date with Northwestern.



Dordt Defenders in a battle with their opponents

photo by Arlyn Slagter

Blades continue winning streak

by Rich Kok



Dordt Blades battle their opponents on the ice

This past weekend the Dordt Blades recorded their fourth straight victory by defeating the Emo Flying Dutchmen of Emo, Ontario. The hosting Dutchmen suffered a defeat in the two-game contest held at the Fort Frances Memorial Arena.

In Friday night's opening game, the Blades shutout the Dutchmen 4-0. The Dutchmen skated well, but could not jam the puck past Blades goaltender, Al Brandsma, who stood his ground to register his first shutout of the hockey season. The Dordtians had a tough time organizing plays due to travel lag, but could muster enough offense to tally the win. Colin Senneker and Andy Straatsma each scored a pair of goals to bolster the Dordtians to victory.

Saturday night the Dordt Blades chalked up another victory with Stan Schalk taking over goal-tending duties for Al Brandsma. The 6-2

Blades triumph didn't come easy. Most of the time Dordt spent killing off penalties on some very questionable calls by the officials. This didn't stop Dordt from putting the puck in the net as Wayne Visser and Rick Groot each collected a pair of goals. Lone goals went to Tom de Jager and Joe Deunk.

The Blades were well received in the community which went all out to make them feel at home. A special thanks goes to this hosting town and team.

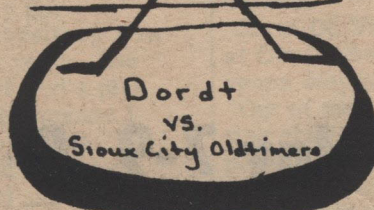
In previous Blade action the Drake Bulldogs were humbled 7-3 in Des Moines, Iowa on November 16.

The Dordt fans are reminded to attend the final hockey game of the season as the Blades lock horns with the Sioux City Oldtimers at the Sioux City Auditorium, Thursday December 13 at 10:00 p.m. The Sioux City team are former Musketeer players of the Sioux City Musketeers of the United States Hockey League.

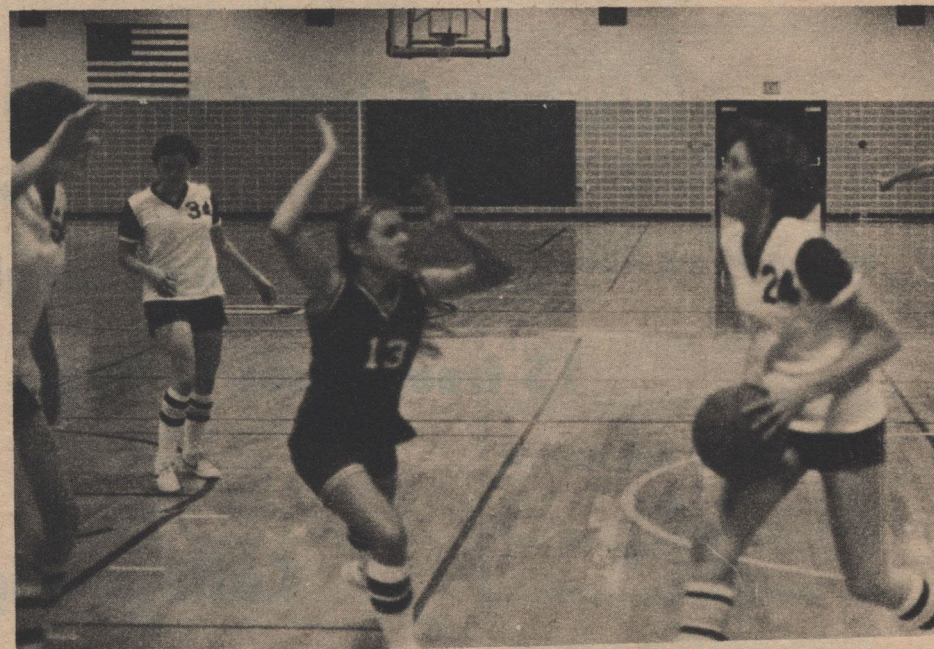
LAST HOME GAME

Go Dordt Go!

~~BLADES~~
~~HOCKEY~~



Sioux City Auditorium Thursday December 13 10:00 p.m.



Lisa Vander Wal prepares to shoot during a home game



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